

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11318 270037Z

61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 072301

R 261740Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7012

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY THERAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, AF, IR, PK

SUBJECT: MAIN VISIT TO DELHI

BEGIN SUMMARY: WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY PLAYED DOWN SIGNIFICANCE OF NAIM VISIT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, MUTUAL AFGHAN AND INDIAN CONCERN ABOUT IRANIAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN. HE SUGGESTED AFGHANISTAN MIGHT HAVE ASKED FOR SOME TRAINING ASSISTANCE OR ADVISERS BUT COULD NOT GIVE INDIAN RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

1. R.C. SHUKLA, DEPUTY SECRETARY, WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA, TOLD EMBOFFS SEPTEMBER 26 THAT NAIM VISIT WAS EFFORT BY NEW REGIME TO REESTABLISH PERSONAL TIES WITH GOI. FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH HAD BEEN INVITED TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN EARLIER THIS YEAR, BEFORE COUP, BUT SCHEDULING IN KABUL AND HERE DID NOT PERMIT. AFTER THE COUP, INVITATION WAS REPEATED BUT AGAIN SWARAN SINGH COULD NOT GO. AFGHANISTAN THEN ASKED TO SEND NAIM HERE INSTEAD.

2. NAIM DID SEE "PRACTICALLY EVERY MINISTER AVAILABLE", INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER, PLANNING MINISTER, DEFENSE MINISTER
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 11318 270037Z

AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FOREIGN MINISTER

BEING AT UN). THIS WAS AT HIS INITIATIVE, TO RENEW TIES, ACCORDING TO SHUKLA. CALLS WERE APPARENTLY STRICTLY A NAIM AND WAHID ABDULLAH SHOW -- IN AT LEAST THE CASE OF THE CALL ON THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR ZAHIR WAS LEFT SITTING OUTSIDE.

3. SHUKLA EXPLAINED THAT AFGHANS WERE GREATLY CONCERNED OVER IRANIAN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN. HE DECLINED TO SPECIFY WHAT THE IRANIANS WERE DOING EVEN THOUGH A COLLEAGUE OF HIS HAD TOLD EMBOFF PREVIOUS DAY THAT IRANIAN HELICOPTERS WERE IN BALUCHISTAN AND THE DELHI PRESS SEPTEMBER 26 CARRIED REPORTS OF ASGHAR KHAN'S ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THESE (NEW DELHI 11274). SHUKLA PROTRAYED AFGHAN CONCERN AS STEMMING FROM A BELIEF THAT IRAN WAS CALLING THE TUNE IN BALUCHISTAN AND WAS DETERMINED TO BLOCK ANY AUTONOMY THERE. INDIA HAD TO WORRY ABOUT POSSIBLE IRANIAN MILITARY SUPPORT TO PAKISTAN IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT, HE NOTED.

4. WHY HAD NAIM SEEN THE DEFENSE MINISTER? SHUKLA SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE RECORD OF THE CONVERSATION, BUT HE THOUGHT NAIM MIGHT HAVE ASKED FOR SOME TRAINING OR ADVISERS FROM INDIA. INDIA ALREADY HAS SOME AFGHAN STUDENTS IN ITS MILITARY SCHOOLS BUT HAS FOUND THAT THEIR LOW LEVEL OF ENGLISH COMPETENCE CAUSED PROBLEMS. IT WOULD TAKE A MAJOR POLITICAL PUSH TO INCREASE THE NUMBER SUBSTANTIALLY-- SAY TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL COURSE FOR 30 AFGHANS. THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT THERE MIGHT BE A BIT MORE TRAINING, BUT NOT VERY MUCH. SHUKLA DID NOT COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN ADVISERS GOING TO AFGHANISTAN.

5. SHUKLA CLAIMED THAT PAKISTAN HAD BEEN ACTIVE WITH THE TRIBES IN AFGHANISTAN AND POSSIBLY IN JALALABAD AS WELL, BUT HE DID NOT SAY PAKISTAN HAD BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT. BOTH HE AND HIS COLLEAGUE THE DAY BEFORE EMPHASIZED THAT AFGHANISTAN WOULD HAVE LITTLE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IF BHUTTO WOULD ONLY AGREE TO NAP GOVERNMENTS IN THE FRONTIER AND BALUCHISTAN. THE CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT INDIA WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SUPPORT AFGHAN CLAIMS IF THIS OCCURRED. THEY BOTH NOTED THAT INDIA HAD NOT SUPPORTED AFGHANISTAN OVER PUSHTUNISTAN VERY VOCALLY IN THE PAST, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHUKLA SAID INDIA WOULD CONTINUE TO CRITICIZE THE ARMS BUILDUP IN THE PERSIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 11318 270037Z

GULF. THE AFGHANS PRESUMABLY WERE HAPPY TO HEAR THIS. SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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